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## Letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 10 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the intensification of repression against democratic forces, civil society and independent media in Serbia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-43486 (E) 160500 160500

## Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

## Statement issued on 10 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the intensification of repression against democratic forces, civil society and independent media in Serbia

The European Union is deeply disturbed by the intensification of repression against democratic forces, civil society and independent media in Serbia.

The measures taken by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to prevent the lawful and democratic rally scheduled to take place in Pozarevac on 9 May are one more demonstration of the denial of democracy and of the violation of the right to freedom of expression. The European Union praises the behaviour of the democratic forces, which avoided any violent incident despite deliberate provocation by the authorities.

The European Union further condemns the recent arbitrary arrests of politicians, journalists and students. The rearrest of the two Otpor activists is particularly disturbing.

The European Union reiterates its firm support for the righteous struggle of the Serbian people for freedom and democracy.